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An inaugural dissertation
on
Pulmonary consumption
Submitted to the examination
of the
Rev. J. Andrews D. D. Provost,
The Trustees of Medical Professors
of the
University of Pennsylvania
for the degree
of
Doctor of Medicine

to be engaged by nature

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D.^r Rush esteems pulmonary consumption
a disease of the whole arterial system, pre-
ceded always by general debility, & deter-
mined to the lungs, there producing cough, tu-
bercles, abscess & the other local pulmonary
symptoms which attend it—

The truth of this theory of the disease is
sufficiently established, & the present essay
will therefore offer no arguments in its
support, but such as shall necessarily arise
from a consideration of the causes, which
are acknowledged to produce the disease,
the symptoms which attend it, & the re-
medies which are found best adapted
to its cure—

to its own
in which are
the young, the which attend to the
are advantages to me in the future
with a consideration to the future, which
support, but such as shall be necessary
well therefore for an expenditure and
of money which is the present
the truth of this I say for the future
expedient which attend to

land

Before commencing the consideration of the causes, I would remark of them, that in proportion as they act suddenly or gradually, the succeeding disease partakes more or less of the acute or chronic form, in the one case terminating in two or three months, in the other perhaps not in so many years; and also, of their division into remote & exciting, that, the former becomes the latter, when they act on previously induced debility & that, therefore in treating of them I shall not notice the distinction, but enumerate them in common. — —

Mal-conformation of the thorax is a frequent cause of phthisis; it may be hereditary, or the effect of accident or fashion; & produces debility by impairing the power of respiration, or exciting a cough; The chronic enlargements of the abdominal viscera & the liver par-
—ticularly

might have the same effect—

Consumption is induced by many diseases, often by inflammatory affections of the thoracic viscera, by chronic diseases in general, but particularly those of the organs of Digestion, by nervous & intermitting fevers, influenza, asthma, measles, gout, rheumatism, hypochondriasis, scrophula, the great frequency of consumption in England, has been attributed in part to the general prevalence of this disease, but this ^{is} rendered doubtful by the observation, that although scrophula is very common among the Indians they are rarely affected with phthisis.

Hemoptysis is placed among the frequent causes of consumption by Dr. Cullen; it often indicates the existence of a predisposition to, but by its timely aid prevents the occurrence of, the disease, the venereal disease and the means of curing it, which are often carried to a very debilitating length—

Occupations which require a long continued bent posture of the body, without much exertion, or such, as are carried on in low damp & confined situations, those also which expose the lungs to an atmosphere loaded with irritating particles & thus ^{by} repeating a cough may bring on the disease—

Excessive evacuations by Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Hemorrhoids, venery, Fluor albus, excessive menstruation, lactation, & Dr. Rush mentions the case of a young man, who brought on the disease, by the Flow of saliva induced by smoking segars—Except in eating & drinking and the midnight debaucheries, which so generally accompany them, may, by the loss of sleep & appetite they occasion,

or all or any of these

weaken the constitution, & thus lay the
foundation for a fatal phthisis. it is
worthy of remark that the age in
which we are most apt to indulge in
these excesses, is also that most fre-
quently attacked by consumption -
Likewise, a diet too attempered, or composed
of aliments not sufficiently nourishing,
this may in part account for the
greater liability of the female sex to
the disease -

It is induced also by violent passions,
affections, or exertions of the mind; hence
one reason why men of an irritable and
strightly disposition, & women are so
frequently attacked by consumption;
also studious men -

Sudden growth about the age of pu-
erty, or adolescence, is also a cause of consumption.

...the ...
...for a fatal ...
...of ...
...we ...
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...attacked by ...
...and ...
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...and ...

puberty, & the obliteration of the Thy-
mus gland, Dr. Rush mentions among
the causes of phthisis—

Humours repelled from the surface of the
body, & the cessation of an accustomed
discharge—Frequent alternations of hot
& cold weather, hence variable climates,
& the more variable portions of the year,
are so favorable to consumptions—

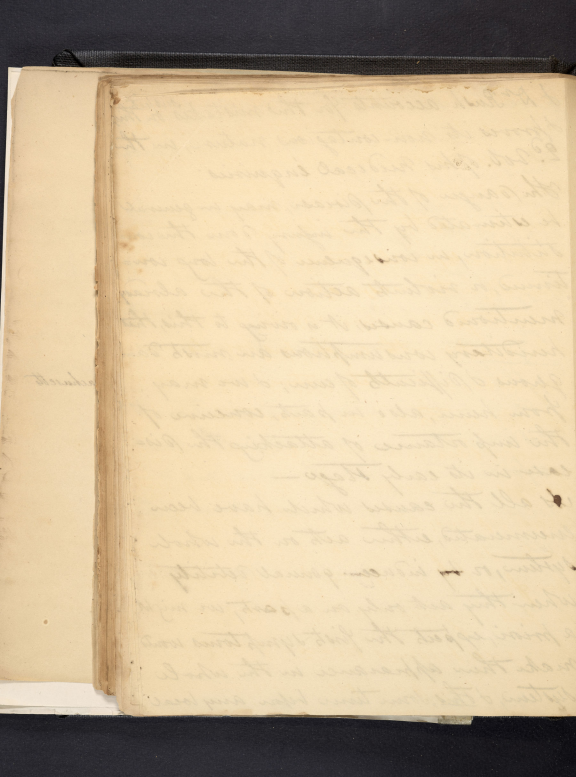
There is a hereditary predisposition to
consumption, independent of the mal-
conformation formerly mentioned, which
equally favors the production of the
disease—

Phthisis has been supposed contagious, if it
is so, it happens very seldom, & only, when
the fetid breath & sweats are long ap-
plied—Dr. Cullen never saw a case which
could be certainly traced to contagion.

I Dr. Rush accounts for this mistake ^{subject} on this
& proves its non-contagious nature, in the
2^d Vol. of his Medical inquiries.

The danger of the disease, may in general
be estimated by the injury done the con-
stitution, in consequence of the long con-
tinued, or violent action of the already
mentioned causes; it is owing to this, that
hereditary consumptions are most dan-
gerous & difficult of cure; & we may
from hence, also in part, conceive of
the importance of attacking the dis-
ease in its early stage —

As all the causes which have been
enumerated, either act on the whole
system, or by inducing general debility
when they act only on a part, we might
a priori, expect the first symptoms would
make their appearance in the whole
system, & this, some time before any local

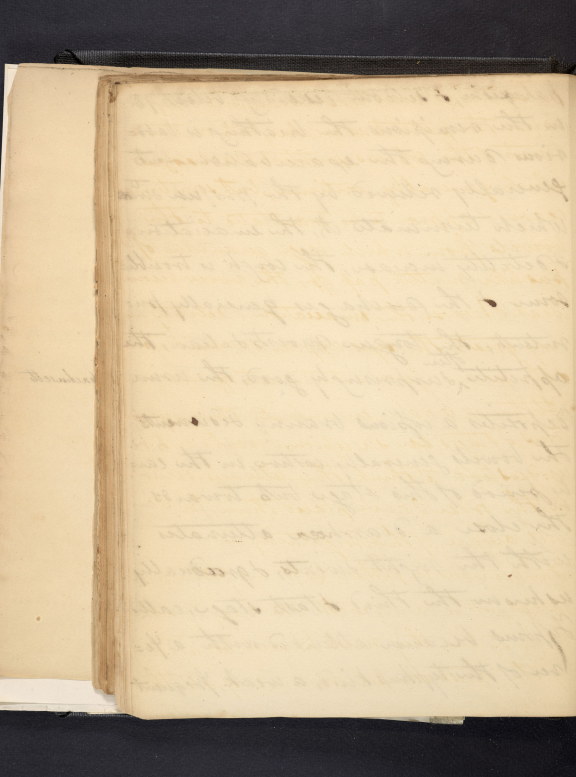


effects could be observed—just as we would reason, is the fact, & the first alarms the patient receives are fatigue, & hurried respiration on slighter exertions than induced them in health, his pulse ^{becomes} quicker than natural, especially towards evening, he is troubled with occasional head-ache, vertigo & faintness, he is more liable to take cold & be affected with cough, his bowels become irregular, alternately costive & loose, he is afflicted with a burning sensation in his hands & this increases as evening approaches his eyes are rheumy when he wakes, his urine more copious, attended with a dry skin & particularly hot in the morning, his cheeks are flushed, his appetite fails, he grows thin he feels languid & inclined to exertion, his voice becomes hoarse & weak, & fixed or wandering pains occur in different parts

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of his chest, with occasional hemipneisy, which
at this period of the disease is rather useful
than otherwise - These symptoms alone
but especially if attended with the usual
marks of an hereditary predisposition,
ought to receive our most prompt atten-
tion, but it is to be regretted they are often
neglected & when they are, the symptoms
which characterise the inflammatory state
generally make their appearance, they are
an increase of the pain & cough with a
fever, a quick, hard & frequent pulse and
a loss of appetite, generally a discharge of mucus
streaked with blood, though often blood
alone; these are succeeded by the
 hectic stage which derives its name from
being always accompanied by a hectic fever
with its usual characteristics, as chills
heats & night sweats & a very frequent
pulse often 130 in a minute during the

paroxysm, & seldom descending below 90
in the remissions, the breathing is labo-
rious during the exacerbation, but
generally relieved by the profuse st sweat
which terminates it, the emaciation
& debility increase, the cough is trouble-
some, & the discharges generally pro-
vulent, the tongue moist & clean, the
appetite ^{often} surprisingly good, the urine
deposits a copious branny sediment,
the bowels generally costive, in the ear-
ly period of this stage, but towards
the close a diarrhoea attenuates
with the night sweats, & gradually
ushers in the third & last stage, called
Typhus because attended with a fe-
ver of the typhus kind, a weak, frequent



pulse, the ^{cough} is more troublesome, not only be-
cause the patient is weaker, but on the ac-
count of the copious purulent discharges,
which generally continue, but sometimes
cease & appear to be translocated to the
bowels from which large quantities of
pus like matter pass off, the voice becomes
weak, & hoarse, the emaciation & debility are
very great, the eyes appear sunken & dim
& the poor sufferer is shortly cut off —

Although I have enumerated these symp-
toms, & stages in succession, I would not be
understood to think, they always occur
in the order I have placed them, for I am
well aware of this irregularity —

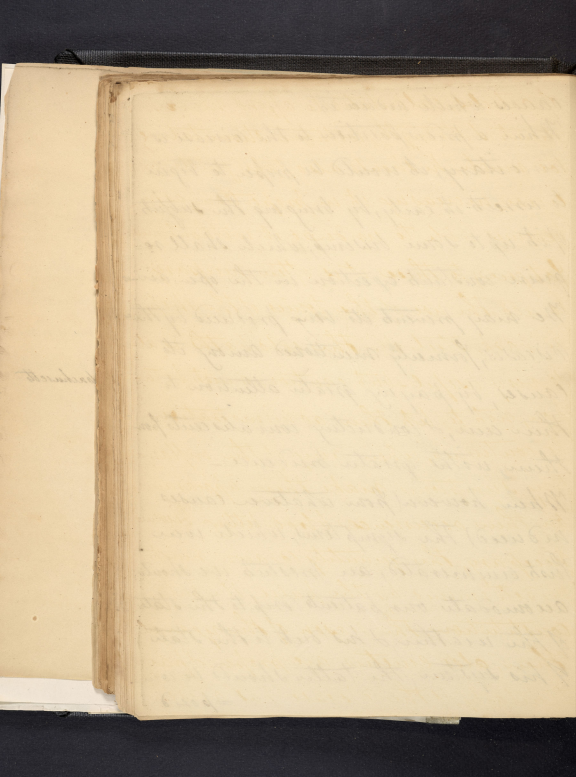
The remedies for phthisis (as for every other dis-
ease) must be varied, with the varying states
of the system, they must likewise be aided
by the most careful removal of all the

causes which induce it-

When a predisposition to the disease is hereditary, it would be proper to begin to correct it early, by bringing the subjects of it up to some business, which shall require constant exertion in the open air.

We may prevent its being produced by the diseases, formerly mentioned among its causes, by paying greater attention to their cure, & conducting convalescents from them with greater prudence.

When however (from whatever causes induced) the symptoms, which were first enumerated, are present we should accommodate our patients (resp. to the state of the weather, & his diet to the state of his system, the latter should be com-
=posed



of articles, calculated to afford nourish-
ment & strength, without stimulating
too much; he should also take gentle ex-
ercise, increasing it in proportion, as he
becomes able to undergo it without much
fatigue; to these it is often necessary
to add the use of the tonics of the shop,
as bark, steel &c. The cold bath is al-
so very useful - but caution must be ta-
ken, not to let their administration
be continued, when any of the inflama-
tory symptoms make their appearance,
on their occurrence blood-letting becomes
necessary, the quantity drawn must
be determined by the pulse, the patients
constitution, the season of the year, &c.
Then, also emetics are proper, & par-
ticularly, if the disease has arisen

From catarrh - Read prefers Ipecacuanha,
& Simmons speaks highly of the blue
vitriol -

Nitre is also useful, caution however
should be observed in its administra-
tion, as it has great tendency when
long continued to impair digestion -
a milk & vegetable diet, & the salty
meats, when the stomach is disposed
to dyspepsia, are necessary concomi-
tants of the above remedies -

Fresh subacid fruits are important
articles also in this stage -

D.^r Rush observes that he has derived
much advantage, from exercise in
a cold dry air -

Blisters & setons are useful in this
stage, & more particularly so if the

Disease originated from repressed eruptions
Rheumatism or gout -

The cough should be allayed by demul-
cents, teas, syrups, &c. & opium or laudanum
is useful for this purpose, if the arterial
excitements be not great; certain posi-
tions of the body often relieve a cough
which has resisted other means -

We come next to the remedies for the heu-
tic stage, & here the strictest attention
to the state of the system is necessary,
for it is never stationary, but always
rising into the inflammatory, or sinking
into typhus, making it necessary to have
recourse to the remedies for these sta-
ges, as either of them shall predomi-
nate -

It is in this state that a salivation

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is more useful than in any other, it has
sometimes effected a cure, & bids fair
when the disease has originated
from fevers, or depends on visceral
obstructions - much reliance was
at one time placed on Digitalis, &
the gases, but there is little ground
to hope much from them; our
greatest reliance should be placed
on well regulated exercise -

The night sweats are best treated by
lime water, arsenic, Potass nitric acid
sugar vitriol, calcined oyster shells,
frictions to the skin, with stimulating
substances, sleeping on a mattress &
when they depend on too much ac-
tion, bleeding -

When the typhus symptoms appear,
our medicines should be stimulating

as Potash alkali, opium, the balsam
bark, combined with the bitter, & if mer-
cury is used, it should only touch the
mouth; with these remedies a cordial
& stimulating diet should be advised,
composed of animal food, the drinks
should also be stimulating, as milk
punch, brandy toddy, wine, &c.

These remedies will be found ^{more} useful,
as the system is free from all inflam-
matory diathesis, they however seldom
afford any but temporary relief -

If the cough should continue trouble-
some, the syrups formerly mentioned will
be found useful, they should have com-
bined with them, some stimulating ar-
ticles; but opium affords the greatest
relief -

The diarrhoea is best counteracted by
chalk pills, compounded with the

tincture of cinnamon & laudanum -
by astringent medicines, aliments &
drinks, & by laudanum injected into
the bowels; & in short all the reme-
dies for Diarrhoea from other causes.

By the suspension of the active
symptoms of the disease, & the tran-
sient advantages, (for there are all)
which these remedies generally
afford, we are enabled to take ad-
vantage of the most permanent
benefits, offered by the important
means of exercise & labour; on this
subject much might be said, but I
shall only observe, that it is as ne-
cessary to accommodate their use to

the varying states of the system, as that
of any of the remedies formerly mentioned
when the debility is great, they should
be of the papine kind & gradually
increased on to the active, observing
carefully never to continue them, after
the slightest fatigue is induced—

The writer of this imperfect essay,
begs leave to offer with it, to the me-
dical professors, his most sincere ac-
knowledgements, for the great advan-
tages he has received from their
respective lectures—

debellitating
debility

Epiphany